

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for moving a medical implement having a magnetic component through a tissue in a patient, comprising;
 a magnetic field generator generating a magnetic field of sufficient strength to move the medical implement through the tissue free of assistance from mechanical force.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the magnetic field generator is a permanent magnet.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the magnetic field generator is an electromagnet.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the strength of the magnetic field is varied to move the medical implement through the tissue.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein a polarity of the magnetic field is reversible.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the magnetic field generator is positioned external to the tissue.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the magnetic field generator is selectably positionable to move the medical implement through the tissue.
8. (Currently Amended) A medical system for connecting a first tissue to a second tissue in patient, comprising:
 a medical implement including a magnetic component; and
 a magnetic field generator, wherein the magnetic field generator generates a magnetic field of

field of sufficient strength to move the medical implement through the first and second tissue free of assistance from mechanical force.

9. (Original) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the magnetic component of the medical implement is a magnetizable material.

10. (Original) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the magnetic component of the medical implement is a permanent magnet.

11. (Original) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the magnetic component of the medical implement is an electromagnet.

12. (Withdrawn) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the medical implement is made of a non-magnetized matrix and the magnetic component is dispersed within the matrix.

13. (Withdrawn) The medical system of claim 12, wherein the non-magnetized matrix is made of a bio-resorbable material.

14. (Withdrawn) The medical system of claim 12, wherein the magnetic component is made of a material removable from the patient by normal physiological mechanisms.

15. (Withdrawn) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the magnetic component is removably attachable to the medical implement.

16. (Withdrawn) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the medical implement is made of a bio-resorbable material.

17. (Withdrawn) The medical system of claim 8, further comprising a suture attached to the

medical implement.

18. (Withdrawn) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the medical implement is a suture anchor.

19. (Original) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the medical implement is a surgical needle.

20. (Original) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the magnetic field generator is a permanent magnet.

21. (Original) The medical system of claim 8, wherein the magnetic field generator is an electromagnet.

22. (Original) The medical system of claim 21, wherein the strength of the magnetic field is varied to move the medical implement through the first and second tissue.

23. (Original) The medical system of claim 21, wherein a polarity of the magnetic field is reversible.

24. (Original) The medical system of claim 21, wherein the magnetic field generator is positioned external to the tissue.

25. (Original) The medical system of claim 21, wherein the magnetic field generator is selectably positionable to move the medical implement through the first and second tissue.

26. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument for delivery of an implant through tissue comprising:

a body;
a carrier located on the body for removeably securing at least a portion of the implant to the instrument;
a tip located at a distal end of the body and configured and dimensioned for insertion through the tissue; and
a magnetic element located on the body, wherein interaction between the magnetic element and a magnetic field external to the tissue drives the instrument through the tissue free of assistance from mechanical force.

27. (Original) The instrument of claim 26, wherein the magnetic element is part of the body.
28. (Original) The instrument of claim 26, wherein the magnetic element is attached to the body.
29. (Original) The instrument of claim 26, wherein the magnetic element is a permanent magnet.
30. (Original) The instrument of claim 26, wherein the magnetic element is an electromagnet.
31. (Original) The instrument of claim 26, wherein the magnetic element is movable to provide directional control of the instrument as it is driven through the tissue.